AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A wireless communication system including a mobile station and a base station having a distributed antenna arrangement comprising a plurality of antenna elements for producing antenna signals across an area of coverage of the distributed antenna arrangement, wherein said antenna elements are arranged in groups of at least two antenna elements, said antenna elements producing the strongest antenna signals at the mobile station, within at least part of said area of coverage, are assigned to different said groups and antenna signals produced by the different groups of antenna elements are subjected to preset relative delays, each antenna element of the same group being subjected to the same present delay, enabling the antenna signals to be combined substantially coherently in the mobile station.

2. (Currently Amended) The wireless communication system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said mobile station includes a RAKE receiver having N RAKE fingers ~~RAICE lingers~~, where N is an integer equal to the number of said groups.

3. (Previously Presented) The wireless communication system as claimed in claim 2 wherein N is 3.

4. (Previously Presented) The wireless communication system as claimed in claim 1 wherein antenna signals produced by the antenna elements of one of said groups are not subjected to any preset delay.

5. (Previously Presented) The wireless communication system as claimed in claim 1 including at least one delay line, wherein the or each delay line subjects antenna signals produced by all the antenna elements of a respective group to the same preset delay.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a wireless communication system including a mobile station and a base station having a distributed antenna arrangement comprising a plurality of antenna elements for producing antenna signals across an area of coverage of the distributed antenna arrangement, the method including assigning antenna elements producing the strongest antenna signals at the mobile station, within at least part of said area of coverage, to different said groups, each group comprising at least two antenna elements, and subjecting antenna signals produced by the different groups of antenna

elements to preset relative delays, each antenna element of the same group being subjected to the same preset delay enabling the antenna signals to be combined substantially coherently in the mobile station.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6 wherein the antenna signals produced by the antenna elements of one of the groups are not subjected to any preset delay.

8. (Previously Cancelled)

9. (Previously Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The wireless communication system as claimed in claim 2 wherein antenna signals produced by the antenna elements of one of said groups are not subjected to any present delay.

11. (Previously Presented) The wireless communication system as claimed in claim 3 wherein antenna signals produced by the antenna elements of one of said groups are not subjected to any present delay.

12. (Previously Presented) The wireless communication system as claimed in claim 2 including at least one delay line, wherein the or each delay line subjects antenna signals produced by all the antenna elements of a respective group to the same present delay.

13. (Previously Presented) The wireless communication system as claimed in claim 3 including at least one delay line, wherein the or each delay line subjects antenna signals produced by all the antenna elements of a respective group to the same present delay.

14. (Previously Presented) The wireless communication system as claimed in claim 4 including at least one delay line, wherein the or each delay line subjects antenna signals produced by all the antenna elements of a respective group to the same present delay.

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.